

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION  
November 4, 2010; 12:00-2:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:**

Chris Massa, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Gabriel Gonzales, May Farr, Tanya Perry, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Roberto Casas, Jane Mercer, Tom Rivera, Monica Wilson, Michael Hill, Jane Godager and Talli Simmons on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

**Excused Absent:** David Ford, Bill Swift

**Guests:**

Allan Rawland Director; Debi Pasco Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission; Angel Baltazar, Office of Supervisor Josie Gonzales; Eric Auman, Life Signs Interpreting; Beverly Buckles, Dean Loma Linda University; Shameka Coles, CHSB; Lois Perkins, Vanessa Arredondo, Life Community Development; Linda Hart, African American Mental Health Coalition; I. Lamm, Summit; CaSonya Thomas, Veronica Kelley, Jason Hill, Rafael Villa, Cheryl Long, Paula Rutten, Michael Knight, Arelis Martinez, David Denkers, Michelle Dusick, Linda Porter, Mariann Ruffolo, Michael Oliver, Michael Schertell, Susanne Kulesa, Kristen Martinez, Ron Smith, Douglas Fazekas, Maria Coronado, Gary Atkins, Mark Kennedy, Jonathan Buffong, Benita Ramsey, Lisa McGinnis, DBH

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Acting Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. Self introductions followed.

Director Rawland requested to defer Director's Report until after Special Presentation. The members of the Commission approved the agenda with this change. The Behavioral Health Commission minutes of 9/2/2010 were approved as written.

**CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE – October and November**

**October Recipient:** Lisa Price, Regional Director, Center on Deafness Inland Empire (CODIE)

**Nomination:**

*Lisa travels around San Bernardino County to provide DBH with Deaf Sensitivity trainings to help ensure staff are adequately and appropriately serving deaf and hard of hearing consumers. Lisa provides these trainings on her own time without compensation from DBH. Her trainings have been very well received and informative, DBH staff has requested additional training opportunities to continue learning from Lisa. Her passion and commitment to serving the often overlooked community is shown during her trainings and community advocacy efforts.*

Ms. Price thanked the Commission for this recognition and acknowledged her staff for their support in accomplishing objectives.

**November Recipients:** Life Community Development provides transitional housing for children, youth, adults, veterans, and anyone who needs the help. Lois Perkins is the Chief Executive Officer, Vanessa Arredondo, House Manager of Sapphire House (one of the Life Community Development homes), and Joseph (Jojo) Perkins, Facility Manager.

**Nomination:**

*The TAY team wants to recognize Ms. Perkins, Vanessa, and Jojo for consistently going above and beyond for our members and for TAY staff. We want say a big, thank You! This was further cemented for us when we met with a young lady that had recently been moved to this facility and she said, "I just want to say thank you for moving me to Ms. Perkins house, I really like being with someone that I can relate to and talk to. The young lady went on to praise Vanessa for really caring about them and talking to them on a one on one basis about what's*

*happening with them. The young lady also discussed what a welcoming environment it is at this facility and that this was a welcoming change for her. This entire house is enrolled in school (some are also working) and highly motivated to achieve success! Again, thank you Ms. Perkins, Vanessa and Jojo (who continues to work with our male clients) for working to achieve success at the "Sapphire House" and in partnership with the TAY center for member success!"*

Ms. Perkins thanked the Commission, DBH, Director Rawland, and André Bossieux for their support.

### **NASW CALIFORNIA SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR**

Mariann Ruffolo, Program Manager, Workforce Education and Training introduced Dr. Beverly Buckles, Dean of the School of Science and Technology and Chair of the Department of Social Work and Social Ecology at Loma Linda University who was recently selected as NASW Social Worker of the Year. She works closely with California Department of Mental Health and representatives of the County Mental Health Director's Association to enjoin social work education and public mental health in the delivery of recovery-oriented services to consumers of mental health services in California. As the co-founder and director of the Loma Linda University International Behavioral Health Trauma Team, Dr. Buckles has provided both direct services to trauma victims around the world and training to professional volunteers.

Dr. Buckles stated that it is a pleasure collaborating with DBH as we continue to develop our workforce. She will work hard to live up to this recognition.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were provided.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

After the 10/7/10 Public Session meeting Acting Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel and her nursing students held a focus group with consumers who shared their experiences. It was a tremendous learning experience for all involved. She is working on a pilot project to involve nursing students in the clubhouses and TAY centers. The nursing students will hold a Behavioral Health Fair at Team House on 11/20/10. All are welcome to attend.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

#### **First District:**

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales was honored to participate in the 10/7/10 nursing student focus group. The exercise stimulated memories and emotions bringing with it a feeling of cleansing and relief. The Victor Valley Clubhouse held a successful Halloween party with a costume contest, karaoke, pool tournament and lots of candy.

#### **Second District:**

Commissioner Michael Hill is glad to be back after missing last month. Please remember the underground miners who may have mental health issues.

Commissioner Monica Alonso will soon graduate from PFA class and looks forward to Part II. She will participate on the Holiday Tea & Awards Ceremony Nominating Committee, the NAMI Walk, and the Housing Coalition. She also took part in the focus group with the nursing students. As a member of Amazing Place clubhouse and the Behavioral Health Commission, she has learned of the many services provided by DBH; however, most consumers are not aware of the opportunities.

Commissioner May Farr attended the INFO and CITA graduations. It is very heartwarming to see the progress the young people have made as they re-enter the community. She also attended the recent CA Mental Health Planning Council and CA Local Mental Health Boards/Commission meeting in Sacramento. The Commissioners will soon be able to receive CiMH training to interpret data. She announced that 75 teams will participate in the NAMI Walk 11/6/10.

**Third District:**

Commissioner Chris Massa enjoyed the Hispanic Employee Alliance event where Tom Rivera was honored for his lifetime commitment to education. Chris is participating in the Wellness Triathlon events: bowling, NAMI Walk, and the talent show. He will speak to his parish about bringing a representative to the Homeless Summit November 17-18. He also participates in a peer to peer consumer group in Riverside; the group is making headway. He felt participation in the student nursing focus group in October was a great experience.

Commissioner Tanya Perry attended the 10/26/10 Third District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting in Redlands. Many TEAM House members were present. Discussions included IEHP insurance and the need for clubhouse transportation. The Big Bear Mental Health Alliance is conducting a survey regarding public knowledge of the services offered in the Big Bear community.

**Fourth District:**

Commissioner Monica Wilson is a consumer advocate member of the CA Mental Health Planning Council, providing oversight and accountability to county mental health.

Commissioner Roberto Casas stated that the Superintendent of Schools announced that despite cuts in funding mental health services will continue for students K-12. He has been working with his colleagues in getting the Fourth District Advisory Committee (DAC) involved in the community.

Commissioner Jane Mercer's homeless agency in Ontario has been developing a restoration center and shared housing. Five previously homeless clients are now living independently in clean, dignified, shared housing. They anticipate serving 200 individuals for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner.

**Fifth District:**

Commissioner Veatrice Jews attended the AAMHC press conference which raised awareness and promoted advocacy regarding the passing of ACR 150, recognizing the second week in February as African American Mental Health Awareness Week. She thanked trailblazers Assemblywoman Wilmer Amina Carter and Linda Hart for their diligence in getting "There Ought to be a Law" passed. Veatrice will also review and evaluate nominations for the December 2nd Holiday Tea & Awards Ceremony. So submit those nominations!

Commissioner Jane Godager continues to work with the CA Senior Legislature on a proposal prohibiting operators of skilled nursing facilities/board and care to be designated as payees.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Countywide Vision Project**

The Board of Supervisors with the assistance of Greg Devereaux's office is spearheading a large-scale effort to create a vision for the county's future. Steve Pontell and Diana Alexander, Vision Project Team members, solicited feedback from Commissioners. After discussing the biggest challenges and why we live here, the Commissioners stated how they would like to see San Bernardino County in 5 years:

Healthy	Diverse
Energy efficient	Sensitive to all residents needs
Thriving as a leader	Tourist center
Fearless	My home
Color blind	Recovered!

Over the next 4 months, Vision Team members will seek input through town hall meetings from the public, various county entities, business leaders, community-based organizations and everyone having a stake in the direction our county will take in the years to come.

Upcoming Special Presentations include:

- 1/6/10: Healthcare Reform Update by Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Deputy Director, DBH
- 2/3/11: TAY Building H Expansion by André Bossieux
- 3/3/11: Inland Valley Recovery Services by Pamela Nichols, Youth Services Coordinator
- 4/7/11: County of San Bernardino Cultural Competency Plan by Veronica Kelley, Cultural Competence Officer
- 5/5/11: 2/3/11: Jail Mental Health Services by Teri Self, Program Manager, Adult Forensic Services

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Rawland announced that San Bernardino County will host the next Cultural Competency Summit in November 2011.

The CA 1115 Waiver Healthcare Reform package of \$10 billion was approved for 5 years; providing early enrollment for seniors.

### **FY 2010-2011 State and County Budget**

The state budget has passed; however, AB 3632 funding was vetoed and the county mandate suspended to provide services for children with special needs. Currently in San Bernardino County, 341 students are receiving outpatient/wraparound services and 96 are receiving residential services. We are working cooperatively with SELPAs to transition students back to the schools. Commissioner Roberto Casas mentioned that districts are unloading students to charter schools to eliminate costs.

### **CalMHSA**

San Bernardino County DBH is partnering with sister counties, through CalMHSA, to implement the MHSA PEI Statewide Projects, which has been submitted to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for approval.

- Suicide Prevention
- Stigma and Discrimination Reduction
- Student Mental Health Initiative

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Christopher Massa presented the slate of Behavioral Health Commission officers for 2011:

- Chairperson – Susan McGee-Stehsel
- Vice Chairperson – Monica Wilson and Roberto Casas
- Secretary – Tanya Perry
- Treasurer – Tom Rivera, Monica Alonso, Veatrice Jews

The election will occur at the 1/6/11 Public Session.

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS**

Michael Knight, Program Manager announced the following events:

- The Native American Heritage Month celebration will be held at BHRC on 11/5/10
- DBH Cultural Competence and Ethnic Services participated in the Mexican Consulate Dia de los Muertos altar creation, which honors those with behavioral health issues who have passed on.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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*Susan McGee-Stehsel*  
Acting Chairperson

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Behavioral Health Commission